

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
OCTOBER 1, 2008 through DECEMBER 31, 2008

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 4TH quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/1/08 5pm :30

An Agawam student is in big trouble with the law after allegedly posting death threats against fellow students on You Tube. The twelve year old whose name has not been released is a student at Agawam Junior High School. According to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Czajkowski, the student allegedly threatened six of his fellow students by posting alleged death threats on the YouTube internet site.

News 10/2/08 5am :30

2 people are recovering after being severely beaten during an attempted robbery. Police spotted people acting suspiciously on Lyman Street just after 12:30 this morning. Springfield police Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news when they approached the group, police noticed a bloody victim and four others attempting to flee in a car. Police stopped the suspects, and searched the car. Capt. Dexheimer says police found a bloody baseball bat and broken BB gun. The four suspects were arrested. One victim was transported to Baystate Medical Center, .a second escaped during the attack. Both are expected to be OK.

News 10/3/08 6pm :30

A Springfield woman is accused of assaulting a police officer, and stealing mail. Wilbraham Police Chief Allen Stratton told 22NEWS that Wendy Woods also known as Wendy Early is suspected of stealing personal mail in Wilbraham. A Monson Police officer working a traffic detail in Wilbraham tried to stop the woman's car this week. When she refused to shut off the car engine, Officer Daryl Buley reached for the keys, and the driver took off, dragging him some 25 feet. Officer Buley suffered minor injuries, and he later identified Wendy Woods as the suspect. Woods is being held at the Ludlow lockup, charged with assault and battery on a police officer, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, a car.

News 10/5/08 6pm :30

A man alleged to be a Springfield Firefighter is in Springfield police custody this evening. He's charged with sexually assaulting a minor, a teenage boy. 22News reporter Shane Symolon is live from Merrimac Avenue in Springfield where the incident allegedly took place. That's when police took 33 year old Eddie Rivera into custody. The incident is leaving parents on this street very concerned, because there are so many children on this street.

News 10/5/08 6pm :30

Springfield's Sunday morning violence is often the case when the bars and clubs close for the night. So it was at 2 o'clock this morning outside of Kickback's Lounge on upper State Street. Springfield Police Captain John Barbieri tells 22News a 23 year old man suffering from a stab wound to the rib cage drove himself to Mercy Medical Center. Barbieri said the stab victim told officers that someone had knifed him on State Street soon after the bar shut down for the night. The victim's expected to recover according to Captain Barbieri. The man with the knife is still on the loose.

News **10/8/08** **5pm** **:30**

A Holyoke man faces charges of assaulting his own family, including a six week old infant. 30 year old Rey Calderon was arrested Tuesday during a domestic call at 400 Tokeneke Road. According to Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott, Calderon allegedly stabbed a 13 year old step-daughter in the head, bit her 12 year old sister in the hand, and struck a 6 week old infant, causing brain bleeding. Scott said Calderon's wheelchair bound wife and two police officers were also allegedly assaulted. Calderon was ordered held on \$10,000 bail. The infant is being treated at Baystate Medical Center.

News **10/9/08** **12pm** **:30**

Several residents in Springfield woke up this morning to find their car windows smashed. Capt. Robert McFarlin of the Springfield police department told 22news there were 20 reports of vandalism at several locations in the city, including Forest Park, Mason Square, Indian Orchard, Hungry Hill and downtown. On Turner Street, Reggie Horn said his daughter heard a loud noise around midnight and he came outside to find all of his windows smashed, his roof dented, and his side mirror torn off. Also, a mother and daughter had their car windows broken on Grayson Drive. The victims we talked to said they were not able to go to work because of the vandalism. One of the incidents included a fire deputy's city car. Police are trying to figure out if the crimes are related.

News **10/9/08** **5pm** **:30**

One person was sent to the hospital after a hit and run two vehicle accident in Springfield. The accident happened early this afternoon at the intersection of Berkshire Avenue and Cottage Street. According to Springfield Fire Department Spokesperson Michael Richard a pickup truck was trying to make a turn when it was sideswiped by a car. The owner of a nearby diner told 22news that too many drivers speed through that intersection.

News **10/10/08** **5am** **:30**

Springfield Police are investigating a shooting in the city's Hollywood section. It happened just after 2:30 this morning at the laundry mat at 644 Main Street. Springfield police captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news a 22-year-old male was found with 2 to 3 gunshot wounds to the chest and stomach. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center. Dexheimer also said police believe there was a second gunshot victim that fled the scene.

News **10/11/08** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield woman is recovering tonight after being stabbed outside a city night club. Police Captain John Barbieri told 22News a 22- year-old Springfield woman was waiting in line at a hot dog stand outside the "Fat Cat" club when a black man wearing a hoodie walked up to her and spit in her face. She spat back in his face, and as she walked away the woman noticed she'd been stabbed in the hip. The victim was taken to the Mercy Medical center.

News **10/11/08** **6pm** **:30**

Hadley Police are looking for a man, allegedly seen shoplifting at Target. Store security tried to stop him, but he allegedly shoved the security guard and kept running. A Hadley police officer got wind of the situation and tried to stop the suspect but he elbowed the officer in the chest. Officer Christopher Martin says the alleged thief used a box cutter to steal merchandise. The suspect was last seen on Route 9 near the bike path in Hadley. Police are looking for a thin white male, between the ages of 17 and 20. If you have any information you're asked to call Hadley police at 584-0883.

News **10/15/08** **5am** **:30**

Police in Springfield are investigating the city's 11th homicide of the year. Springfield police responded to a call about a shooting at Pine and Florence streets around 9 o'clock last night. Captain Robert Mcfarlin of the Springfield Police Department told 22news, the victim, a 28- year old male from Springfield, was shot multiple times while inside his car, which was parked outside the Pine Street Market. The victim then drove his car a short distance before crashing it on Ashley Street. He was transported to Baystate Medical Center where he later died.

News **10/15/08** **6pm** **:30**

An alleged kidnapping and rape. A trail of torture from Springfield to Northampton as a woman is allegedly abducted and assaulted dozens of times. Police say she was punched in the face, and raped multiple times. In the suspect's bedroom at his home, police found piles of porn, empty liquor bottles, medication and an axe. Lt. Ken Watson said the victim asked 52 year old Straughn and 30 year old Springfield resident David Little for a ride home from a Springfield bar. The two men then took her to this place where she was allegedly forced to perform more than a dozen sexual acts until she escaped the next afternoon. Police say witnesses identified Straughn and Little as the two men chasing her in downtown Northampton. They were taken in to police custody on a slew of rape, kidnapping and assault and battery charges. Lt. Ken Watson says there is evidence more witnesses could be stepping forward. Right now Little and Straughn remain behind bars.

News **10/17/08** **5pm** **:30**

Two men were stabbed and another is under arrest in Springfield. Springfield Police Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22News the stabbings were part of a disturbance at the 1800 Club

on Dwight Street shortly before 2am. According to Capt. Dexheimer, 22 year old Luis Reyes of Springfield was arrested following a short foot pursuit and violent struggle with police, where Reyes attempted to grab an officer's gun. One of the men stabbed was treated at the scene... the other was taken by ambulance to Baystate Medical Center. He is in serious but stable condition.

News **10/18/08** **6am** **:30**

A Springfield judge has sentenced a couple to prison for beatings that left one of their baby daughters blind and another mentally disabled. Prosecutors said 38-year-old Robert Beaulieu fractured the girls' skulls and caused other injuries when they were a few weeks old, one in 2005 and one in 2007. Twenty-year-old Veronica Garcia was accused of failing to stop him or get medical help. Beaulieu was sentenced yesterday to 16-to-20 years in prison. Garcia was sentenced to three-to-four years.

News **10/20/08** **11pm** **:30**

The weekend is off to a violent and deadly start in Springfield. Police detectives are investigating a grisly murder in the city's South End. This is the city's 12th homicide this year, and the second shooting death this week. The incident happened about five o'clock behind 258 Locust street. Police say the victim was shot in the face at close range. Police were gathering evidence at the end of the ally behind 258 and 256 Locust Street. Springfield Police Detective Captain Robert McFarlin told 22News the victim is a 31 year old former Springfield resident. Captain McFarlin said the man had just returned from Puerto Rico last night to stay with family, but the man's family does not live where the murder took place. A neighbor who lives nearby arrived at the murder scene, just as police arrived tonight.

News **10/22/08** **5am** **:30**

Police in Springfield are investigating a violent assault from the overnight. Police Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news a female victim stumbled into the CITGO gas station at 61 Locust Street around 1:20 this morning. Dexheimer said the victim was beaten with a blunt object so severely around her head and neck she was unable to speak. She was rushed to Baystate medical center where she is currently in serious condition. Police are now searching for suspects and a crime scene.

News **10/23/08** **5am** **:30**

Police in Springfield are investigating a home invasion in the city's north end. Police were called to 14-60 Dwight Street around 10:15 last night. Sgt. Brian Manley told 22news a 28-year old man walked downstairs in his home to find two intruders wearing hoodies and ski masks. After a brief confrontation a shot was fired but no one was struck. The intruders immediately fled police are still searching for suspects.

News **10/24/08** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield Police believe a vicious rapist is on the loose in Springfield and he's already struck twice. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney says a 40-year old woman was raped and beaten in a vacant 2nd floor apartment at 76 Mill Street. One of the men hit her repeatedly with a 2-by-4. The victim is in a coma at Baystate Medical Center. Sgt. Delaney says another rape and assault took place at the same location, police believe the same men committed both crimes. The suspect is described as a dark-skinned black man with a chunky build. He's in his late 30's, about 5-feet eight inches tall with a "fat" fold on the back of his neck. If you have any information call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787 - 6355.

News **10/24/08** **5pm** **:30**

Police cracked a drug ring in Springfield last night taking \$10,000 worth of drugs off our streets. Sergeant John Delaney tells 22news that Springfield Narcotics Division Officers raided 236-238 Dickinson Street at about 9:45 last night. Delaney says police arrested the alleged ring leader 21 year old Christopher Brown, who is known on the streets as "Bin Ladin." Police also arrested Jason Gordon of Dorchester, and Ruben Martori and Robert Shular of Springfield for distribution. Police seized 10-thousand dollars worth of cocaine, heroine, and packaging and distribution materials. The men were arraigned today in Springfield District Court on charges of trafficking in heroin, trafficking in cocaine, and violation of a drug free zone.

News **10/25/08** **11pm** **:30**

A man was stabbed in Springfield outside of 575 Main Street in the South End. According to Police Lt. Robert Strzempek the victim suffered a cut to the arm. That happened just before 8:30 tonight.

News **10/25/08** **6pm** **:30**

Would be carjackers are growing more brazen on the streets of Springfield. A young couple experienced a terrifying incident in the Forest park section of the city early this morning. 22News reporter Alexis Miller tells us that the driver not only escaped with his car, but also his life. One young couple shaken up, after a car-jacker ambushed them while waiting at a stop sign at Euclid and Belmont Avenue in Springfield's forest park section. Lt. Rupert Daniel says around 1:30 Saturday morning, the driver a 22 year old man and his girlfriend were stopped with their windows down when a Hispanic man in his late teens approached them. The couple was waiting here at the stop sign when the suspect ran up to the passenger side window which was down pointed a gun at them and told them to get out the car. Reportedly, when the driver heard the gunman's orders he took off but he couldn't escape a bullet to the arm when the assailant fired on him. The injured boyfriend took himself to Baystate Medical Center to be treated. Springfield police are still looking for the attempted car-jacker.

News **10/26/08** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man allegedly used a box cutter to settle an argument at the Main Street Dunkin' Donuts in Springfield's South End this morning. 19-year-old Jose Sosa faces some serious charges. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22News that Sosa's been charged with mayhem, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Sosa, of 35 Archie Street, and the 19 year old alleged victim reportedly got into argument about four o'clock this morning at the coffee shop. The man suffered a slash wound across his face was treated at the Mercy Medical Center emergency room.

News **10/27/08** **11pm** **:30**

State Police say they've arrested a Springfield man who allegedly dragged a trooper while trying to drive away from a traffic stop. The incident happened late last night on St. James Avenue and St. James Boulevard around 11:30 last night. Following an investigation, State Police identified the driver as 31 year old Richard Jones of Springfield. This morning, members of the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section located Jones and arrested him at a friend's home on Grover Street. Jones faces charges of assault and battery on a police officer, assault with a dangerous weapon, failing to stop for police, and several motor vehicle offenses.

News **10/27/08** **12pm** **:30**

A dog is dead after being dragged from the back of his owner's pickup truck. A Suffield man is accused of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, after police say he dragged his dog for ten minutes while it was tied to his pickup truck. Police say 36 year old Brian Moson was stopped by police Sunday night after a report of a dog being dragged along River Boulevard about a mile from his home. Police say Moson told them he forgot he tied the 5-year-old Australian Shepherd to the back of the truck. Moson has been charged with animal cruelty and operating under the influence. Sergeant Thomas Van Tasel from the Suffield Police Department said the dog was euthanized upon arrival at the VCA Boston Road Animal Hospital last night. Moson has been released after posting bond.

News **11/03/08** **12pm** **:30**

Three females were robbed on the campus of Elms College in Chicopee. The robbery happened just before midnight Saturday. According to Sgt. Nado of the Chicopee Police Department the females, ages 16 to 18 were walking through the main section of campus near the statue when a male walked up to them with a gun and yelled at them to get on the ground. He allegedly took their wallets and ran toward Springfield with another male. Both suspects are white between 5'6" and 6-feet tall. They were wearing dark, hooded sweatshirts. If you have any information, you are asked to call the Chicopee police department at 592-6341.

News **11/04/08** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man is arrested for a murder in the city last month. Springfield Police Captain Robert McFarlin told 22NEWS that Steven Rafael Gonzalez was arrested today in Syracuse,

New York, after police in Syracuse were tipped off by Springfield Police. Gonzalez was arrested for the murder of Alexander Gautier. Gautier was found stabbed to death behind an apartment building at Locust Street on October 17th.

News **11/05/08** **12pm** **:30**

A local parish was devastated today after an early morning fire in a church under construction in the sixteen acres section of the city. Springfield fire spokesman Dennis Leger told 22news crews were called to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ on 215 Tinkam Road a little after three this morning. Crews arrived to find the nearly 2 million dollar parish engulfed in flames. Bishop Bryant Robinson Junior said the church was nearly finished and was expected to open its doors to some 500 parishioners this spring. Right now the state fire marshals along with the FBI are on the scene investigating. Although nothing has been confirmed, Bishop Robinson, along with one local parishioner, said this wasn't an accident.

News **11/08/08** **7am** **:30**

An early morning smash and grab at a local pizzeria has police in East Longmeadow searching for suspects this morning. The break in happened around three this morning at Patsy's Pizzeria on North Main Street in East Longmeadow. Sgt. Patricia Farrell from the East Longmeadow Police Department says the suspects got away and took the cash register with them; the amount inside is unknown. Farrell says the burglars left in a vehicle. This isn't the first time Patsys has been broken into; in fact, it's the second time in two months.

News **11/10/08** **5am** **:30**

Hadley police are asking for the public's help in identifying two men suspected in robbing a gas station. Police received a 911 call just before 11 last night from the gas station clerk. The clerk said two men walked into the gas station, flashed a knife, and demanded money. The suspects then took off with an undisclosed amount of cash. One suspect is described as a light skinned Hispanic male, approximately 6 feet tall with a medium build. The suspect had a tribal tattoo under his right eye. The second suspect was described as a fair skinned white male, approximately 6 feet tall with a slender build. He had a band-aid under his right eye, possibly to cover up a scar or tattoo. If you have any information about this robbery, you are asked to call Hadley police at 413-584-0883

News **11/10/08** **5pm** **:30**

An alleged sex crime in the town of Granby has some residents saying they're shocked. Gary Stone, who's in his late 40, was arrested at his home last night in connection to that incident. He's accused of raping a woman in her 20s at 130 Amherst Street sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning. Granby Police Detective Barbara Fenn tells 22News, this is the first instance of an adult accused of rape in Granby since last year

News **11/11/08** **5am** **:30**

Two police officers are injured after being run off the road. Sgt. Brian Manley with the Springfield police department said around 1:35 police were attempting to pull over a car on Ranney Street. The driver being pursued turned around and head straight for the police cruiser. The officers hit a nearby tree in an attempt to avoid the oncoming car. Two officers were sent to the hospital, one suffering injuries to his head, they are expected to be okay. Police have the car but are looking for the suspect this morning.

News **11/11/08** **5am** **:30**

A man from Springfield is recovering in the hospital after being shot in the leg. The man was shot at 38 Hall Street in the city's south end around eleven last night. Captain Bennett of Springfield Police told 22news that they have arrested a suspect, 19 year old Franklin Andrews of Springfield. The victim is expected to be ok.

News **11/14/08** **12pm** **:30**

A scary morning for a Springfield couple when they found a Molotov cocktail in their driveway. The Springfield fire department along with police were called to 80 Linnell Street a little after seven this morning when a resident walked out of their home and found this Molotov cocktail next to the car. The fire bomb appears to have been lit but it never exploded. Fire officials removed the Molotov cocktail for further investigation. According to Police Department spokesperson officer Marcia Brown officers who were at the scene believe where the Molotov cocktail was left was just a random act.

News **11/15/08** **9am** **:30**

Police in three communities are working to piece together convenience store crimes that could be connected. 22News reporter Anthony DiLorenzo is live in Chicopee were thieves targeted a gas station on Memorial Drive. This Mobile station is the latest to be hit by the two men who in each robbery have the same MO. Now police from Hadley, West Springfield and Chicopee are all working together trying to solve this rash of robberies. If you recognize any of these men you're asked to give Chicopee, Hadley or West Springfield police a phone call.

News **11/15/08** **9am** **:30**

A man is shot in the neck during a home invasion in Holyoke. It happened around 11 o'clock last night at 149 Essex Street on the fifth floor. Sgt. Cournoyer from the Holyoke Police Department told 22news that a 22 year old man was shot in the neck and an 18 year old man was pistol whipped. Both were in the apartment when the incident happened they were taken to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. The Holyoke detective Bureau is investigating there are no suspects at this time.

News **11/15/08** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man allegedly turns violent when he finds his girlfriend in the arms of another man. That's what happened at 284 Oakland Street early this morning. Police Sgt; Charles

Scheeser told 22News 29 year old Manuel Robles burst into the woman's apartment and stabbed her 26 year old guest in the stomach. Police reportedly charged Robles with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and home invasion. Sgt. Sheeser says the victim should survive.

News **11/16/08** **11pm** **:30**

Reports of an armed robbery around 9 pm tonight in Hadley at this O'Connell Shell station on Russell Street. Officer Richard Downey says there were reports of a weapon shown, but no word on how much money or what items were stolen. Detectives are still reviewing surveillance video. No injuries were reported.

News **11/17/08** **11pm** **:30**

A wild police chase that started with a carjacking in West Springfield ended 55 miles later in Wallingford Connecticut. Police say 39-year old Todd Scamporino of New Haven carjacked a tan Chrysler Pacifica in West Springfield. WTNH reports that New Haven municipal officers followed the car onto Interstate 91, when Connecticut State Police joined the chase. Scamporino allegedly drove through the median between exit 11 and 13 and started driving the wrong way in the southbound lanes until he collided with a Beer Truck, totaling the Pacifica. A man in that truck feels lucky to be alive.

News **11/17/08** **5am** **:30**

A break-in at an Amherst home has some local college students worried about their safety. Detective Brandon Seymore of the Amherst Police department told 22news, no one was home at 49 Hobart Lane when the house was broken into. The victim is a UMASS student and had a laptop was stolen, among other smaller things. Amherst Police say there has been a recent rash of break-ins, now students are saying they don't feel safe in their own homes.

News **11/18/08** **11pm** **:30**

A man walked into a Chicopee convenience store early this morning and asked the clerk a scary question. What would the clerk do if someone came at him with a knife? Chicopee Police Captain Gary Godin told 22News, it was at that point the stranger pulled a knife and demanded money from the clerk at this Pride service station convenience store on Montgomery Street in Chicopee Falls. Captain Godin told 22News, the holdup man who committed several other convenience store robberies in recent days asked the same question. The only difference as you see here in surveillance video from the holdup in Hadley is that the clerks were confronted by two thieves in Hadley, West Springfield and an earlier Chicopee robbery, but reportedly only one man committed today's Pride station heist.

News **11/19/08** **12pm** **:30**

Police in Chicopee are asking for your help in catching a robbery suspect who has hit at least three businesses in the last couple of weeks. The most recent hold-up happened at the Pride station on Montgomery Street in Chicopee at 1:30 Tuesday morning. This is the best video surveillance so far of the suspect who is shown wearing a white baseball cap with a NY emblem and a black coat with a fur-lined hood. The man has also robbed stores in Hadley and South Hadley. Detective Frank Kagan of the Chicopee police department says the man says the same thing to the clerk during each robbery "What would you do if I showed you a knife and told you to give me all of your money?" He then shows a knife and asks for money. If you have any information about this man's whereabouts, you are asked to call the Chicopee police department at 582-6341.

News **11/23/08** **9am** **:30**

A local pizza chain was robbed early this morning. It happened just after three at Pizza Hut on 1264 Boston Road in Springfield. Lt. Norman Charest told 22news two men entered the business masked. They then forced three employees to lie on the floor. When police questioned the employees, they were unable to say if the suspects were armed or not. Charest said they stole an unknown amount of money from the safe and fled on foot.

News **11/26/08** **12pm** **:30**

Chicopee police have identified a man being sought in connection with a string of hold-ups in Chicopee, South Hadley and West Springfield. According to Capt. Gary Godin, police are seeking the whereabouts of 29-year-old Jose Torres, last known to be homeless in Holyoke and often seen in the Appleton Street area. Torres is wanted for armed robbery. One of the most recent hold-ups happened at the Pride station on Montgomery Street in Chicopee last week. This is the best video surveillance so far of the suspect who is shown wearing a white baseball cap with a NY emblem and a black coat with a fur-lined hood. In each of the incidents police say he shows a knife and asks for money. If you have any information about this man's whereabouts, you are asked to call the Chicopee police department at 592-6341.

News **11/28/08** **12pm** **:30**

Three men have been arrested by Holyoke police after shots were fired in the city on Wednesday night. Confiscated at the time of the arrest were loaded magnum revolvers a shotgun and ammunition in addition to 2 grams of crack cocaine. The three suspects arrested are 20 year old, Luis Angel Contreras 23 year old Jose Beltran, and 19 year old Felix Miguel Rodriguez, all of Holyoke. They are facing a variety of charges that include firearms violations and disorderly conduct.

News **11/28/08** **5pm** **:30**

Besides crazy mobs, shoppers should watch out for burglars lurking in mall parking lots. Police have issued a warning for shoppers after thieves broke into cars in Hadley. Just a few car break-ins at the Hampshire Mall Parking lot on the day after Thanksgiving, but Hadley

Police say this is just the beginning. The holiday season is prime time for thieves to strike. Retailers seem to be putting a dent in the amount of criminal activity in their stores, though they acknowledge they have a lot of work left to do." Investing money in technology to combat crime inside the stores isn't enough to keep shoppers' belongings outside the store safe. Police will be patrolling the parking lot as thieves are targeting your expensive electronics inside the car. Hadley police have a serious suggestion for shoppers this holiday shopping season.

News **11/28/08** **5pm** **:30**

A 25 year old Springfield man survives a savage knife attack early this morning. He was stabbed at least four times on a street in the Forest Park section of the city. Springfield Police Lieutenant Norman arrest told 22News, the victim was brutally attacked in front of 135 Belmont Avenue about 1:30AM. Before his assailants ran away, they stabbed the man three times in the back and once in the head with someone driving the bleeding man to Baystate medical center for treatment. The stabbing victim's expected to survive his wounds. The motive behind the knife attack still remains a mystery.

News **11/30/08** **7am** **:30**

Thieves who broke into a Chinese restaurant in Springfield about an hour ago left a familiar calling card. Springfield police Lt. Norman Charest told 22News the robbery took place at the Manna Chinese restaurant just before 7 this morning not long ago, thieves broke into a Pizza shop in East Longmeadow and also made off with the cash register. It's impossible at this point to know if the same people were responsible for both burglaries.

News **12/02/08** **11pm** **:30**

A dangerous car chase that began in Ludlow ended in Springfield tonight. Springfield police arrested the male suspect just after 10 tonight in front of 56 Lois Street. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Strempeck told 22news that the suspect tried to swerve his vehicle and hit the cruisers in pursuit. The suspect was taken to Baystate medical center for treatment for unspecified injuries. We'll have more information for you shortly.

News **12/02/08** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield police are holding three reported illegal aliens on a half million dollars bail each after what's being described as a major Cocaine Seizure in the city's South End. Springfield Detective Sargeant Robert Tardiff told 22News Narcotics Detectives set up a two-kilo buy as part of a three month investigation. Police arrested three Mexican men in a car late this morning at a designated meeting spot, a gas station parking lot at Union Street and East Columbus Avenue. Sargeant Tardiff says police found nearly three pounds of cocaine and more than \$23,000 cash in a secret compartment in the car. Police arrested 28 year old Jose Gutierrez of Springfield, 22 year old Fernando Cortez of Agawam, and 24 year old Juan Lopez of Phoenix, Arizona. All three men are charged with trafficking cocaine- more than 200 grams; conspiracy; and violating a drug free school zone. Sargeant Tardiff told 22news

the Department of homeland security's Immigration section has put a detainer on the men as suspected illegal aliens. If convicted on all charges, each man faces 22 years in prison. All are scheduled for arraignment tomorrow in Springfield District Court.

News **12/03/08** **5pm** **:30**

Police in Springfield spent a good part of the morning trying to coax a wanted man off the roof of his girlfriend's house. The standoff started around 6:30 this morning when the fugitive apprehension unit tried to serve a felony warrant to 20-year old Barry Luther Rowe at 98 Florence Street. According to Sgt. John Delaney, when officers entered the house, Rowe ran out the back to a porch where he then jumped onto the roof. He stood up there up on the roof for an hour and a half shouting profanities at police and members of the media. Delaney says Rowe was seen with a .38 caliber handgun in his waistband of his pants. He later dropped the gun down the chimney. Detective Dennis Prior helped convince the man to come down.

News **12/03/08** **5pm** **:30**

A Springfield man is stabbed in the heart and then bleeds to death in the street. And when police found the alleged killer, they say he still had the bloody knife on him. 46-year-old Luis Fontanez of Springfield is accused of stabbing Jose Reyes-Torres right in the heart. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the two were fighting when Fontanez grabbed a knife. 29-year-old Reyes-Torres then stumbled out of the house and into the street that's where police found him. He died shortly afterwards at BayState Medical Center.

News **12/03/08** **5pm** **:30**

South Hadley Police are looking for a woman who held up a Peoples Bank branch today. According to South Hadley police Chief David Labrie, the robbery took place around 10:30 this morning at the People Bank branch at the Village Commons. Labree told 22News the suspect is a black woman who was wearing a nylon stocking over her head. And the suspect did not show, but indicated she had a weapon. No one was injured in the incident.

News **12/04/08** **11pm** **:30**

It's a Rash of Robberies. Police departments are investigating bank robberies that took place today. In one bank-job, the robber was a woman. Chicopee Police want your help identifying the man who robbed the Center Street Sovereign Bank Branch today. A little after 3:30PM, Chicopee Police Detective Tim Foley said the man walked into the bank indicating he had a gun and made off with an unknown amount of cash. No gun was shown, and no one was hurt. Police released a surveillance photo of the suspect. If you recognize the man in the photo, you're asked to call Chicopee detectives at 594-1733.

News **12/04/08** **11pm** **:30**

The Federal Credit Union on Cranbrook Boulevard in Enfield was robbed today, but this one had an unusual twist. A man handed a note to the teller demanding money. The tellers handed over some cash, but get this; the robber gave some of it back. He put \$100 on the credit union counter before he left. The robbery suspect and his alleged accomplice didn't get too far. 26- year old Eric Wawrenski, and 34 year old Nelson Colon were arrested a half hour after the hold up.

News **12/05/08** **5pm** **:30**

Charges are being brought against a teenager, who was the driver of the car that crashed into a tree in Westfield last month killing 16 year-old Carlos Montes de Oca. He has been charged with motor vehicle homicide and operating under the influence of alcohol. Westfield Police Chief John Camarota told 22News 17 year-old Alexander Merkulov has been charged with motor vehicle homicide and operating under the influence of alcohol. He will appear in Westfield District Court next week to answer to those charges. Merkulov was behind the wheel when the car crashed into a tree on Shaker Road in Westfield on Nov. 23.

News **12/05/08** **6pm** **:30**

A wild police pursuit from Holyoke to West Springfield ends in the arrest of two suspected shoplifters. According to Holyoke Police Lt. Isaiah Cruz, the chase began late this afternoon at the Holyoke Mall. Cruz told 22News a Holyoke Police officer spotted a van with Florida plates leaving the mall inside were three suspected shoplifters. During the chase a Holyoke police cruiser collided with another vehicle. Officer Manuel Febo was transported to Holyoke Medical Center with injuries to his head, hands and feet. The chase ended at the West Springfield Route 20 rotary, two of the three suspects were caught. A state police helicopter and K-9 units were called in to search for the third suspect.

News **12/08/08** **11pm** **:30**

Also in Holyoke, police are on the look out for two armed robbers who held up two hair salon workers. The suspects, one described as having tattoos all over his face, held a blade to the throat of two Essex Stylist for Men employees, demanding the woman's ring, and the man's wallet. Sgt. Isaiah Cruz says the two got robbers got away with an undisclosed amount of cash just after 3 this afternoon.

News **12/09/08** **5pm** **:30**

A scary scene at an elementary and middle school in the city of Holyoke. Authorities locked-down the Kelly School after reports of an intruder inside the building. According to Police Chief Anthony Scott, shortly before noon officers visiting the school noted a car outside with its engine running. They found the owner inside the school building, and at the same time ran a check of the car's plates. The plate-check revealed the owner's wanted on out-of-state drug charges. When the man noticed officers checking his plates, he took off and ran

through the school, leading to the lock-down. The man got away, but police now have his vehicle.

News **12/10/08** **5pm** **:30**

Springfield police detectives are investigating the second murder in the city in a week. A Springfield man is dead after being shot in the back of the head. 28-year-old Maurice Williams is Springfield's 13th person murdered in the city this year. It happened on Yale Street in the hill McKnight section of the city around 6:30pm last night. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News Williams was found next to his car which was running last night. One resident who lives near the shooting says he worries for his and his mom's safety.

News **12/11/08** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield police are searching for suspects tonight after an armed robbery at a gas station. It happened just after 8 tonight at the Shell station at 550 State Street in Springfield's Mason Square. Captain C. Lee Bennett told 22news a man showed a gun to the clerk and got away with an undetermined amount of cash. There may have been a second suspect. Captain Bennett says detectives are reviewing surveillance photos. No one was hurt.

News **12/11/08** **11pm** **:30**

West Springfield Police are looking for a suspect in the city's second bank robbery this week, and once again, a very clear surveillance photo of the robber. West Springfield Police Detective Scott Manser told 22NEWS this man, handed the teller a note demanding money. He man took off, running down Memorial Avenue. If you have recognize the man in the photo, you're asked to call West Springfield police detective bureau at 263- 3210.

News **12/11/08** **5pm** **:30**

A police impostor is still on the loose tonight and cops are warning area seniors to watch out. It all started last night in East Springfield when a Hispanic man posed as an officer and was let into two older women's homes. He managed to steal money from both their wallets. The man tried to strike again today on Thornton Street, but was not successful. Springfield police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News he has a warning for the community.

News **12/13/08** **6am** **:30**

Chicopee detectives are looking into the possibility that the 'Bank North robbery' may be connected to one of the several robberies committed in other municipalities this week. Chicopee detective Michael Dion told 22News, an African American man walked into the Meadow Street Bank North Branch late yesterday afternoon, told the teller he had a gun, and demanded money. He ran away with an undetermined amount of cash. No gun was shown, and no one was hurt. Chicopee police are reviewing surveillance tapes, and detective Dion said they're contacting other departments to see if this heist is connected to any of this week's rash of robberies.

News **12/14/08** **6pm** **:30**

An Agawam shooting victim escapes with his life this morning after nearly bleeding to death from a bullet wound to the leg. Agawam Police Lt. Richard Light told 22News, the 41 year man was shot at his home on Riverview Avenue. The victim's nephew told 22News he tied electrical cords around his uncle's leg to slow down the bleeding.

News **12/17/08** **11pm** **:30**

State Police attempted to stop the driver of a suspected stolen car on Interstate 391. When the driver refused to stop, police stayed with him on 391 to I-91 into Springfield. The driver reportedly tried ramming cruisers during the chase. Troopers used the stop sticks to slow the driver down, but he kept on driving. They finally they stopped the car on Mayfair and Lexington Streets where at least three people were taken into custody.

News **12/17/08** **6am** **:30**

A Springfield woman is under arrest following a stabbing at her apartment in the early morning hours. Sgt. Trent Hufnagel tells 22 News that Christina Brown was arrested at the scene of that stabbing at 418 Liberty Street. Hufnagel says there was some kind of altercation in Brown's apartment around 3 o'clock that led to a man being stabbed in the back and in the head. His injuries don't appear life threatening.

News **12/17/08** **6am** **:30**

Police in Holyoke have one person in custody in connection with a break-in. Police responded to a security alarm sounding at 98 Suffolk Street just before 12:30 this morning. Holyoke police Lt. Manny Febo told 22news police have been investigating a rash of recent break-ins in that area. When police arrived, they suspected the alleged burglar used the roof as a point of entry the Holyoke fire department was called in to bring a ladder one person was later arrested. The state police k-9 unit was also called in to assist in the search for a second suspect. However Lt. Febo says that search has ended.

News **12/27/08** **6pm** **:30**

A woman was sexually assaulted and savagely beaten and left for dead in a brush covered parking lot this morning. Springfield Police Lt. Cheryl Claprood told 22News, the woman--- believed to be in her fifties --is only alive because a police officer in a passing cruiser caught a glimpse of her in the under brush at the intersection of Main Street and Mill River Lane in the cities lower Forest Park neighborhood. Lt. Claprood says, the victim was naked, her body temperature had dropped to 80 degrees, she suffered facial trauma and had been raped. She was taken to Baystate Medical Center. Right now there is no word on her condition. If you can help police by providing any information, please call the Springfield police department's Special victim's unit at 787-635

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 4th quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/15/08 11pm :30

The Ludlow school system's celebrating being removed from "corrective action status" in the State school department. Instruction leadership teams from each of the schools presented the work they did to attain their achievements. Increasing reading comprehension made the difference.

News 10/16/08 5pm :30

Springfield students have been wearing uniforms for almost two months now, and already some teachers say they see a difference in behavior. Springfield students headed back to school this year with a new look: uniforms. Something both students and teachers had their doubts about. Travis Reed, a Spanish teacher at Central High said the new policy has made a dramatic difference in his students' attitudes. "I think it's due to kids just feeling like they belong to something. If they take part of the school then they are more apt to behave well, take care for the school pick up trash. Just be on their best behavior." "One of the biggest fears is that students would lose their individuality, but here at Central High that doesn't seem to be the case." 2,200 students at Central and all of them get creative, making the uniforms work for them. But for many, school used to be nothing but a fashion show, more concerned about their outfit than their education. "Now we all wear uniforms and we don't have anything to worry about because we all look alike, we're all equal." "We worry about our schoolwork now rather than what we look like," something that will take them a lot further in the long run. "Kids are hear to learn and I think uniforms have helped us push that agenda forward and I thinking it's made our schools (I think) one of the best schools in the state of Massachusetts."

News 10/16/08 5pm :30

Governor Patrick's announced a massive one billion dollar budget cut plan Wednesday, and that also means cutbacks also for UMASS Amherst. For students and staff at UMass it means a hiring freeze and department cutbacks across campus. \$12,000,000 cut worries students in fear of losing out on opportunities and losing on campus jobs. Jack Wilson, the President of University of Massachusetts will be making cuts immediately on his end in Boston and just how severely it will trickle down to Amherst is yet to see but it is something on students' minds.

News 10/27/08 12pm :30

Schools in Massachusetts won't be seeing Governor Patrick's Readiness Plan any time soon because of the financial crisis. State Education Secretary Paul Reville tells The Boston Globe the administration intends to proceed in January with several components of the free preschool-to-community college education plan, but would not ask the Legislature to spend as much on the programs as previously hoped. He did not specify dollar amounts. Reville says he will probably move forward with proposals to encourage school employees to join a statewide health insurance program and school districts to consolidate some services and purchasing programs.

News **10/29/08** **6pm** **:30**

Some school officials say they're fed up with drivers putting children's lives in danger; they've seen a rise in people driving past busses with their lights on. It's against the law to drive around a school bus when it pulls to the side of the road, turns on its lights, and puts out the flashing red stop sign, but bus drivers say people just aren't respecting them like they used to. They've had 18 incidents so far this year, which may not seem like much but those are just the times they've been able to catch people and write down their license plates. If someone is caught by a cop they face a minimum \$250 fine and loss of driver's license. If just caught by a bus driver, they're sent to a hearing in Boston, where their license is held in the balance. But officials say it's not just about the penalties - ignoring a buse's stop sign puts children in danger.

News **10/30/08** **11pm** **:30**

Between state budget cuts and higher operation costs, the news isn't good for state or private college students. According to the annual "Trends in College Pricing Report", the average price for tuition and fees is up six point four percent at public universities, and five point nine percent at private colleges. The research is based on pricing for the current academic year. And the outlook for next year isn't much better. Trend-spotters say, in order to keep up with rising prices, many institutions will raise prices more than the standard 5 or 6 percent.

News **11/03/08** **5pm** **:30**

The problem of piracy is plaguing the University of Massachusetts campus costing students a fortune. Last year, Umass received over 1,000 copyright violation notices for illegal downloading, and at least 100 Umass Amherst students were in and out of court for settlements. Those settlements cost anywhere between 35 hundred dollars to 7 thousand dollars. The administration sent out a mass e-mail to students warning them of the severe consequences stating: "Using the campus network to download and share illegal copies of songs, movies, or software is against the law. Copyright violations carry fines, suspension from UMASS and even criminal charges." We went to campus to hear students' reaction.

News **11/06/08** **5pm** **:30**

Having a computer as a school-age child is critical to their education. But not everyone is so fortunate. Brendan Kenny, a teacher at Forest Park Middle School in Springfield, has been reaching out to local businesses asking for them to donate their old computers. He received his biggest donation yet, 65 computers from the Kripalu Center in Stockbridge.

News

12/03/08

12pm

:30

Higher education in Massachusetts has earned some top marks in a new report on the nation's colleges and universities. According to the annual National Report Card on Higher Education... the Bay State earned an "A" for its graduation rate, for preparing high school students for college and for the percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees. But Massachusetts scored an "F" in affordability, along with every other state except California.

News

12/04/08

5am

:30

The credit crunch is causing many families and students to rethink how they're going to pay for a college education. Family incomes are not keeping up with the rising cost of tuition. Almost everywhere, the cost of college is up, and many students are finding themselves deeper in debt, owing tens of thousands of dollars in student loans. A study by the national center for public policy and higher education flunks all but one state, California. The state's community colleges provide affordability. The Baystate earned an "a" for its graduation rate. But Massachusetts scored an "f" in affordability. In the past 25 years, college costs have increased an average of 400%. With student loans becoming more expensive and harder to find it means fewer students can afford college. And that crunch could affect the education strength of our nation.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 4th quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/23/08 6pm :30

A wood-devouring beetle has gained a foothold in New England--and there's fear it could spread--destroying the hardwood trees that light up the autumn with color. The problem's an infestation of Asian long horned beetles in the Worcester area. The bugs probably arrived in a shipment of lumber from China. The affected area now covers 62 square miles around Worcester and four neighboring towns, and at least 1,800 trees have been tagged for destruction to try and stop the spread. Federal authorities have committed themselves to spending tens of millions of dollars to fight the invasion.

News 11/15/08 6am :30

Hundreds of residents at the Jarvis Heights Apartment Complex say the smell has been making them dizzy and nauseous. All around, there's heavy equipment and the air is heavy with the smell of heating oil. It's been two weeks since residents noticed the strong smell of heating oil in the air at The Jarvis Heights apartments. On Tuesday someone finally called the fire department after smelling oil in the storm drains. Investigators found leaky pipe carrying heating oil from a 5000 gallon underground tank, in one of the buildings. Now federal, state and local environmental officials are working on a massive clean-up. The EPA says the problem is contained, but some oil did manage to seep into area wetlands.

News 11/20/08 5pm :30

A natural gas leak in Greenfield shut down several businesses and forced residents from their homes. Greenfield firefighter Kyle Phelps says a construction company working on the street hit a natural gas line around ten this morning. The smell was very intense on Newton Street. We spoke with one contractor working on rehabbing a bank who said this incident affected his workday.

News 12/04/08 11pm :30

A mudslide in Shelburne Falls today closed Brook Road. You can see here concrete barriers blocking off this section of the road to traffic near Hindsdale Brook. Shelburne DPW Director Pete Hillman says the road will be closed indefinitely due to rains bringing down mud, trees and boulders. Luckily, there are no homes are on that road.

News 12/08/08 12pm :30

A water main break on Meadow Avenue in Agawam caused some troubles for a homeowner this morning. The water main broke just before 7 completely flooding the yard with several inches of water. With temperatures predicted to be in the low 20s for highs today the flooded yard could freeze over. The Department of Public Works is addressing the problem.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health during the 4TH quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/6/08 5:30pm :30

Even though Massachusetts residents now have mandatory health insurance, they are still seeking care at hospital emergency rooms. The 2006 law was supposed to ease pressure on emergency rooms and save money by encouraging people to go to their primary care doctors for non-urgent health needs. But, many patients with state-subsidized insurance are having difficulties finding a primary care physician.

News 10/23/08 5:30pm :30

If you're struggling to pay hefty health care bills, you're not alone. A survey finds that 97 percent of Massachusetts adults have health insurance, but even with coverage, many can't afford to pay their health care bills. One-third of those polled by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation said the cost of care remains their biggest health concern. Thirteen percent of insured residents said they were unable to pay for some kind of health service or fill at least one prescription in the past year.

News 10/25/08 6pm :30

A Free Mass Mutual life insurance policy will really come in handy for families having trouble making ends meet. The Springfield based financial giant was taking applications today at the Eastfield Mall. Mass Mutual's in the process of preparing to donate millions of dollars worth of fifty thousand dollar policies to qualified applicants.

News 10/25/08 6pm :30

Apparently having health insurance isn't all its cracked up to be for many Western Massachusetts residents. They're still having a tough time affording visits to the doctor, and paying for their prescriptions. Paying for health care is one of the biggest concerns for Baystate residents. Ninety-seven percent of adults in the state have health insurance according to a new study by the Boston Globe and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, yet many say simply being insured isn't enough. The Boston globe found 13 percent of insured residents said they weren't able to afford some kind of health service or fill at least one prescription within the past year. Many are hoping the upcoming election will bring better results than our states health care systems seen in the past.

News 10/28/08 5pm :30

In health news a groundbreaking new tool at Baystate Medical Center could help save your life someday. Artificial tissue is helping train future doctors. It almost looks like real surgery, but it's not. Instead, it's a simulation that helps train novice doctors how to tackle real life medical procedures. Surgical resident Sabha Ganai is being trained in simulation. You're much more relaxed, more comfortable; it makes you faster, more adept. But now, with a new artificial human tissue introduced at Baystate Medical Center, surgical residents will have even more experience in the operating room. This tissue is quite realistic.

We don't have to have residents have their first exposure to surgery in real life. We can give them a sick patient, a patient with multiple health problems and have them deal here as opposed to a real life setting. And, that's reassuring news to people like Dr. David Page whose wife had colon cancer surgery before doctors were trained through simulation. It forced him to think about who was performing the surgery and how much experience they had. When my wife developed cancer, it reinforced my conviction about teaching residents.

News **11/06/08** **5pm** **:30**

Heart disorders are no longer mainly a man's disease. Doctors are saying more women are dying from heart disease than breast cancer. The Spirit of Women conference taking place at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield this afternoon. The Baystate Health initiative is aimed at helping women understand the importance of heart health. Cardiologist Mimi Guarneri spoke to hundreds of women about heart stability and ways of preventing the disease.

News **11/07/08** **6pm** **:30**

A well known National publication has honored a Springfield-based, Health plan as one of the best in the country. U.S News and World Report have ranked Health New England as the sixth best plan in the nation. Each health Plan was surveyed on a variety of factors, including access to care and overall quality. President and CEO Peter Straley touted a second award number one for customer service.

News **12/03/08** **5pm** **:30**

The state of Massachusetts has the highest rate of residents with health insurance, according to a new study. The report called America's Health Ranking is released each year by the United Health Foundation. Massachusetts ranks 6th overall in delivery of health care. But the study finds America's overall health hasn't improved in four years with no real decline in the number of smokers, and a doubling of obesity rates over the last 20 years.

News **12/05/08** **11pm** **:30**

More than one-third of Americans aren't getting the recommend amount of physical activity each week. New health and human services guidelines recommend 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity. A new CDC study finds just over 60 percent of men and women met these requirements in 2007. Exercise rates were highest among people with a college education, and those who lived in the west.

Experts say more needs to be done to educate Americans about the new guidelines and the health benefits of exercise.

News **12/06/08** **11pm** **:30**

A local restaurant chain is offering more heart- friendly foods. Wilbraham-based Friendly's cut out trans-fat from their menu. They announced the change this week, even though they've been cooking without trans-fat since September. All of their 505 restaurants now use a canola oil product. Patrons say they're happy about Friendly's making their food healthier.

News **12/09/08** **5pm** **:30**

When it comes to emergency care, nobody beats Massachusetts. The state ranks first in the nation for its support of emergency patients in this year's report card on the state of emergency medicine. Massachusetts earned a B in the annual survey by the American College of Emergency Physicians. The group says the Bay State still needs to make significant improvements in the area of medical liability in order to stay competitive.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 4TH quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/1/08 11pm :30

Foxwoods Resort Casino has announced plans to cut about 700 more jobs over the next few weeks because of the weak economy. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, which employs nearly 11,000 workers at its casino, says that the cuts will be in addition to 200 announced in June. Michael Thomas, the tribal council chairman, says the weak economy has hurt the casino's revenue. The announcement comes a week after officials at the state's other tribal casino, the Mohegan Sun in nearby Uncasville, announced they were putting a planned \$925 million expansion on hold because of economic concerns.

News 10/2/08 12pm :30

A record number of people are "out of work". New applications for unemployment benefits rose to a seven-year high. The labor department reported today new claims for unemployment benefits rose by one thousand last week to 497,000. That's the highest since right after the terrorist attacks seven years ago. The impact of Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and the current economic troubles are being blamed for the spike.

News 10/21/08 11pm :30

After weeks of speculation about potential city layoffs in Holyoke, Mayor Michael Sullivan is setting the record straight about municipal budgets for the next two years. Mayor Michael Sullivan put it best when he said "If you have less money to spend, you have to spend less money. He's NOT expecting layoffs as part of this year's budget situation, but he makes no promises about the budget for 2010." The 9 year veteran Mayor says the volatility of the economy and the effect on the State budget make it impossible to "guarantee" anything about the '09 budget right now, but, he says so far, Holyoke's upcoming budget is in place, and no layoffs are planned. However, Sullivan says what is still up in the air is the city's 2010 finances a budget the mayor says is sure to suffer from the recent economic downturn.

News 10/22/08 6pm :30

Some disabled workers at a furniture manufacturer in Springfield could lose their jobs in light of the Governor's recent announcement about budget cuts. David Sevrns has built tables, chairs and bedroom sets at Riverbend Furniture for five years as part of a program that helps the mentally ill. David is among 100 disabled workers who were told they might lose their jobs at the end of the year because of state budget cuts. Virginia McElroy started with the program in 1991 after being diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. It helps me by having a place to come and be productive. The news devastated the employees who literally rely on their jobs to keep their spirits up. You have people here who have different levels of functionality.

They don't understand the economy; they don't understand what's behind this. They're just being told they have no job. For the people who are a part of this program, the jobs not only provide structure, but also stability and without the jobs, it could end up costing the state a lot more money.

News **10/22/08** **6pm** **:30**

The state's budget problems are putting a damper in the pay checks of many including faculty at state colleges and universities. Some of the professors at Umass Amherst are saying the freeze to their approved pay raise may have been inevitable with the state's looming budget crisis. A spokeswoman for Governor Deval Patrick says the state is in no position to fund any pay raise agreements to public higher education employees. The Massachusetts Society of Professors says it agreed to a 2.5% salary increase, the contract is still under negotiations.

News **10/23/08** **11pm** **:30**

Some local college students learn about potential job opportunities with the federal government. Western New England College held a job fair for students as part of a Call to Serve Campaign. It's a nationwide effort to provide students with information about federal jobs. A representative from the General Services Administration was there. He says this is the time to apply for federal employment.

News **10/27/08** **5pm** **:30**

Having to pound the pavement at the age of 70 is hardly the American dream. But the economy is so bad some Western Massachusetts retirees are out looking for work. 70 year old Toni Willoughby makes the rounds at Careepoint job training and employment center in Holyoke. She's an accountant and proud of holding down two jobs most of her life. But grim reality set in once she retired. Her dilemma's multiplied many times for Careerpoint job counselors, who tell 22News that the wretched economy has created untold suffering here in the Pioneer valley. It's the number of people who are coming through our door, being employed the same job 25-30 years and now they find themselves unemployed. Because of the economy some people are just as desperate to get a second job. The manager of the Staffing Now employment office in West Springfield tells 22News how heartbreaking it's become.

News **10/27/08** **6pm** **:30**

The current volatility in the financial markets has some people thinking about delaying retirement. Another down start on Wall Street brings more dread for people keeping a close eye on their 401k's, like Attorney Steve Samolewicz who is ten years from retirement, but might now have to wait several more years before he stops working. The Congressional Budget Office reports 401k's dropped by 20-percent or more over the last year only adding to concerns baby boomers and retirees have about the future. It's one of those times where you might need to extend employment or cut back on spending; it's what you have to do in times like this.

News **11/02/08** **7am** **:30**

A new study indicates the pool of younger skilled workers in Massachusetts will shrink over the next five years. The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce study finds workers from ages 18- to 54- will drop by about 4 percent by 20-13, also startling. The study projects the state's growth for workers with at least a bachelor's degree will be the lowest in the nation. The chamber's recommendations were to improve public school teaching of science, technology, engineering and math. It also called for limiting visas on skilled foreign workers.

News **11/06/08** **5am** **:30**

The area's largest health care provider is the latest local victim of the faltering economy. Recent state budget cuts have Baystate Health facing a 10 million dollar reduction in annual cash flow. The provider says it will cut 55 jobs and eliminate 120 vacant positions because of a budget shortfall. Baystate Health blames the reductions in Medicaid reimbursements and declining numbers of patients. People around the region were troubled by news of the cutbacks.

News **11/07/08** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield City Hall is scrambling to come up with a back-up plan if the state fails to provide operating funds the city's expecting. The city of Springfield is trying to be proactive in the midst of this economic downturn. Mayor Domenic Sarno is asking his department heads how they can reduce spending if state funding gets cut. Patricia Vinchesi, deputy director of the Springfield Finance control board says, 63-percent of the city's \$535 million budget is from state aid. State funding accounts for 57 percent of the school department's \$304 million budget. And with a 1.4 billion budget shortfall the state faces. Mayor Domenic Sarno is getting ready for anything. Mayor Domenic Sarno says he isn't forecasting layoffs YET, and says he's planning to fight tooth and nail to prevent them from happening. At this point the state has not given cities and towns any real number in terms of cuts to their local aid that probably won't come until late December.

News **11/11/08** **5:30pm** **:30**

A local career center receives a gift that will help thousands of area job seekers. The nation's jobless rate hit a 14-year high in October. And local career centers are busier than ever. Now, CareerPoint's new computer lab might help local jobseekers get back in the game. CareerPoint in Holyoke helps more than 10-thousand jobseekers every year. The center not only assists in their search for employment, but they offer computer training as well. Now, the career center is better equipped to help jobseekers touting top of the line technology in this brand new computer lab. It's made possible thanks to a Davis Foundation grant and a donation from Whalley Computer Associates. Last year, more than 500 people participated in 264 computer classes offered at CareerPoint. The staff's expecting more people to take advantage of these services with 15 new computers in place. And whether they're changing

career paths or simply expanding their knowledge job seekers can take most classes at this career center free of charge.

News **11/12/08** **6pm** **:30**

It seems that there won't be much to cheer about for people looking for jobs this holiday season. Reports from many retailers show that holiday hiring is way down this year. More stores are turning applicants away in droves many of which end up at career centers seeking help. FutureWorks in Springfield is seeing a rising number of job seekers and limited job openings.

News **11/20/08** **12pm** **:30**

Another sign of the current economic climate, a jump in new claims for unemployment benefits is at a 16-year high. The new numbers provide more evidence of a rapidly weakening job market, and things are only expected to get worse next year. The government says new applications for jobless benefits rose to a seasonally-adjusted 542,000. And the four-week average is at its highest level in more than 25 years.

News **11/24/08** **5pm** **:30**

It's something more and more of us will have to face in the months ahead, the prospect of losing our jobs. Getting laid off is an immediate assault on our finances but there are some smart things you can do to minimize the damage. The end of the year is supposed to bring family warmth and holiday gifts, but for all too many it's bringing a pink slip. Unemployment's at 20 year highs, and its going to get worse. According to USA Today, there are things you should do immediately on losing your jobs. The first is to quickly apply for unemployment benefits. There's usually a two to three week waiting period to get a first check, so the sooner you start, the faster you'll have some income showing up in your bank account. Next-figure out how you'll retain health insurance. Getting sick without it could ruin your finances for years. Under COBRA laws, you can keep your employers health insurance for 18 months but you're responsible for paying the full premium. Or you can sign up for another company's policy but experts say to make sure you do it. Finally, resist the temptation to raid your retirement savings. Doing so early will cost you up to 30 per cent of the money you've accumulated--in penalties and deferred taxes. And you'll reduce what you'll have available when you stop working. But if you really do need to tap retirement funds, the IRS does allow you to avoid some penalties in certain situations. And, while unemployed, retirement funds can be used to pay health insurance premiums.

News **12/03/08** **12pm** **:30**

And another sign of these troubling economic times, Massachusetts unemployment call-in centers are now extending their hours. State Labor Secretary Suzanne Bump said today that the extra hours come in response to increasing demand from the newly unemployed. A surge in layoffs has led to lines as long as two hours at unemployment centers and lengthy

waits for those filing by phone. Call center workers answered nearly 30 percent more calls in October, compared to a year ago.

News **12/05/08** **12pm** **:30**

It's the highest unemployment rate in 15 years. Today the labor department reports a 6.7 percent jobless rate for November. 533-thousand jobs were lost last month, the steepest drop since 1974. It's a sign that the u-s labor market is not making gains during what is now a year-old recession. News of the dismal numbers hit Wall Street with a weak opening this morning.

News **12/12/08** **11pm** **:30**

Residents say they're not surprised the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority is slimming down, after announcing layoffs today. Twenty toll collectors received pink slips today. The Turnpike Authority is trying to save about 1.4 million dollars annually in an attempt to get their debt under control. Officials say they've laid off workers who make roughly 65 to 75 thousand dollars a year. Residents say these cutbacks come as no surprise.

News **12/17/08** **5:30pm** **:30**

Some local career centers are getting grant money to help area jobseekers find employment. The money is part of an award the Regional Employment Board received after it was designated 'high performance' for its efforts to improve workforce development. 100-thousand dollars will be used to increase outreach efforts aimed at local businesses looking to fill positions. The money will help centers such as Career Point in Holyoke and Future Works in Springfield.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Smoking during the 4TH quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 11/11/08 12pm :30

A survey commissioned by the American Legacy Foundation, an anti-smoking advocacy group found one in four smokers are smoking more now because of their stress over the economy. Seven percent of people who quit have started smoking again and 13 percent of smokers planning to quit have postponed their plans. Smokers who make less than \$35,000 a year appear to be the most affected by the economy as well as those who are unemployed.

News 11/12/08 5pm :30

Fewer people are dying from heart attacks in Massachusetts since a statewide ban on most indoor smoking took effect. The state department of public health found that nearly 600 fewer Bay State residents have died every year since that law was implemented in 2004. Their study shows that the number of heart attacks began dropping in communities with strong anti-smoking laws even before that. The local American Heart Association chapter hopes other states do the same.

News 11/18/08 12pm :30

Health advocacy groups say states are not properly funding anti-smoking campaigns. Under a deal reached in 1998 tobacco makers agreed to restrict cigarette advertising practices and make annual payments to states. The group said that states are only using about three percent of the money received from tobacco makers to pay for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. The group says states must reassess their priorities and use the money to fund anti-smoking programs.

News 11/19/08 12pm :30

Ten years after the tobacco settlement, a national report suggests states aren't spending enough on programs to keep people from smoking. States get money under a settlement reached with tobacco companies over tobacco-related health care costs. Over the past decade, states have taken in more than \$200 billion of revenue, including cigarette taxes but only three percent of that money has gone to anti-smoking efforts. The Centers for Disease Control recently updated recommendations for how much states put into tobacco prevention programs, taking into account inflation, population gains and new science. The report says no state funds prevention programs at the levels the CDC recommends.